IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.(Currently Amended) An apparatus for outputting media content items, the apparatus comprising:

an output device arranged to output a first media content item to a user;

a timer arranged to determine a duration of said first media content item;

a selector arranged for receiving a command to replace said first media content item at a particular time while outputting said first media content item;

a time-estimating device arranged to estimate, upon receipt of said command, a remaining time necessary for outputting a remaining part of said first media content item, the remaining time being measured from substantially said particular time to an end of the duration of said first media content item; and

a search device arranged to search for at least one second media content item, wherein a duration of said at least one second item is substantially equal to said remaining time,

wherein said time-estimating device is further arranged to estimate a time of searching said at least one second media content item, and to decrease said remaining time by said estimated time of searching.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

3.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said output device is arranged to replace the remaining part of said first media content item with said at least one second media content item.

4.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said output device is arranged to fade out the output of said at least one second media content item upon expiration of said remaining time.

5.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a database for maintaining durations of the media content items, wherein said time estimating device is arranged to determine a duration of said first media content item by identifying said first media content item in the database.

6.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising:

a receiver arranged to receive broadcast media content items; and

a monitoring device arranged to identify a particular broadcast media content item and to store in said database a duration of said particular broadcast media content item upon completion of receiving said particular broadcast media content item.

7.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said search device is arranged to search for said at least one second media content item in the database .

8.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said search device is arranged to establish for the first media content item being outputted a substitution list having at least one element indicating the at least one second media content item to be used for replacing said first media content item at the particular time of outputting said first media content item.

9.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said search device is further arranged to select one of the second media content items having the duration which is substantially equal to said remaining time, based on user preferences of the user.

10.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said search device is further arranged to indicate a dislike of the user of said first media content item in the user

preferences.

11.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first and second media content items are audio content items.

12.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first and second media content items are radio broadcast programs.

13.(Currently Amended) A consumer electronics device selected from a television set, personal computer, audio player, and portable equipment for outputting media content items, the device comprising:

output device arranged to output a first media content item to a user;

a timer arranged to determine a duration of said first media content item;

a selector for receiving a command to replace said first media content item at a particular time while outputting said first media content item;

a time-estimating device arranged to estimate, upon receipt of said command, a remaining necessary for outputting a remaining part of said first media content item measured from substantially said particular time to an end of the duration of said first media content item; and

a search device arranged to search for at least one second media content item,

wherein a duration of said at least one second media content item is substantially equal to said remaining time,

wherein said time-estimating device is further arranged to estimate a time of searching said at least one second media content item, and to decrease said remaining time by said estimated time of searching.

14.(Currently Amended) A method of outputting media content items by a consumer electronics device, the method comprising the acts of:

outputting a first media content item to a user by the consumer electronics device,

receiving a command to replace said first media content item at a particular time of outputting said first item,

determining a duration of said first media content item,

estimating, upon receipt of said command, a remaining time necessary for outputting a remaining part of said first media content item, the remaining time being measured from substantially said particular time to an end of the duration of said first media content item, and

searching for at least one second media content item, wherein a duration of said at least one second media content item is substantially equal to said remaining time,

wherein the estimating act estimates a time of searching said at least one second media content item, and decreases said remaining time by said estimated time of

<u>searching</u>.

15.(Currently Amended) A computer program product enabling a programmable device, when executing said computer program product, to function as an apparatus for outputting media content items having durations, the apparatus comprising:

an output device arranged to output a first media content item to a user;

a timer arranged to determine a duration of outputting of said first media content item;

a selector arranged for receiving a command to replace said first media content item at a particular time while outputting said first media content item;

a time-estimating device arranged to estimate, upon receipt of said command, a remaining time necessary for outputting a remaining part of said first media content item, the remaining time being measured from substantially said particular time to an end of the duration of said first <u>media content </u>item; and

a search device arranged to search for at least one second media content item, wherein a duration of said at least one second media content item is substantially equal to said remaining time<u>.</u>

<u>wherein said time-estimating device is further arranged to estimate a time of searching said at least one second media content item, and to decrease said remaining time by said estimated time of searching</u>.

Claim 16 (Canceled)

17.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein, in response to the command, the output device is configured to interrupt outputting the first media content item upon expiration of a search time for finding the at least one second media content item.

18.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein, in response to the command, the output device is configured to interrupt outputting the first media content item upon finding the at least one second media content item.

19.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the substitution list is renewed whenever a new first media content is outputted by the output device.

20.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the media content items includes a sequence including the first media content item consecutively followed by a third media content item, and wherein the output device is configured to fade out the output of the at least one second media content item upon expiration of the remaining time when the duration of the at least one second item is longer than the remaining time and to

output the third media content item upon the expiration of the remaining time

21.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the search device is configured to search for two or more second items having a total duration of substantially equal to the remaining time for replacing the remaining part of the first media item with the two or more second items.